

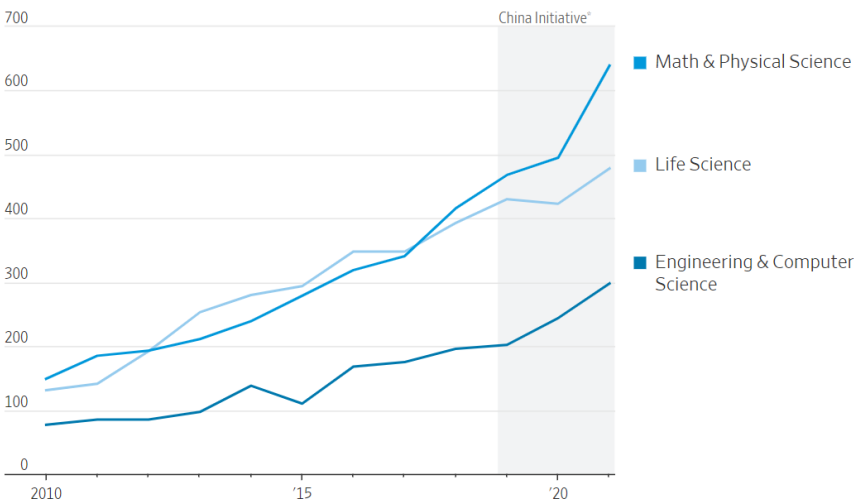
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"U.S.-China Tensions Fuel Outflow of Chinese Scientists From U.S. Universities"

Outward Bound

Number of U.S.-based scientists of Chinese descent who have left for China each year



*Note: China Initiative cases targeting academics rose in 2020.
Source: Asian American Scholar Forum

According to the [Wall Street Journal](#) on September 22, 2022, an increasing number of scientists and engineers of Chinese descent are giving up tenured positions at top-tier American universities to leave for China or elsewhere, in a sign of the U.S.'s fading appeal for a group that has been a driver of innovation.

The trend, driven in part by what many of the scholars describe as an increasingly hostile political and racial environment, has caused the Biden administration to work with scholars of Chinese descent to address concerns.

More than 1,400 U.S.-trained Chinese scientists dropped their U.S. academic or corporate

affiliation for a Chinese one in 2021, a 22% jump from the previous year, according to data gathered by researchers from Princeton University, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The data, published by [the advocacy group Asian American Scholar Forum](#), is based on changes to the addresses listed under authors' names in academic journals.

Chinese scientists trained in the U.S. have returned to China in increasing numbers over the past two decades as the country has grown more affluent and gained stature as a center of scientific research. In the past decade, China has tried to recruit top researchers through talent programs, but historically the majority elected to stay in the U.S.

Departures from the U.S. rose sharply starting in 2020, however, when the Covid-19 pandemic coincided with an increase in criminal cases filed against academics under the China Initiative, a Trump-era Justice Department program intended to counter national security threats from China.

President Biden's Justice Department said it would stop pursuing new cases under the China Initiative in February, following a series of failed prosecutions and complaints of racial profiling, but some scientists of Chinese descent said they still feel as though suspicions are being directed toward them and fear that will continue as long as relations between the U.S. and China remain tense.

Among those Chinese and Chinese-American scientists who have left the U.S. during the past year are widely cited names from Harvard, MIT and the University of Chicago, including a winner of the Fields Medal, the highest honor in mathematics. The AASF study also revealed that general feelings of fear and anxiety also lead the scientists to consider stop applying for federal grants.

Read more about the WSJ article: <https://on.wsj.com/3UzOCvI> and the AASF study: <https://bit.ly/3SdQQig>

2022/10/03 APA Justice Monthly Meeting

The next APA Justice monthly meeting will be held on Monday, October 3, 2022. Invited and confirmed speakers are:

- **Nisha Ramachandran**, Executive Director, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus
- **Patrick Tommey**, Deputy Director, ACLU National Security Project (confirmed), **Gisela Kusakawa**, Executive Director, Asian American Scholar Forum (invited), and **Tsiwen Law**, Civil Rights Activist and Attorney at Law, Law & Associates LLP (confirmed) to report out on Professor Xiaoxing Xi appeal arguments
- **Ed Benyas**, Professor of Music, Southern Illinois University (confirmed) to report out on the outcome and next phase for Professor Mingqing Xiao

- **Toby Smith**, Senior Vice President for Science Policy & Global Affairs, Association of American Universities (invited) to report out on meeting with senior research officers at AAU
- **Jessica Chen Weiss**, Michael J. Zak, Professor for China and Asia-Pacific Studies, Cornell University (confirmed) to present and discuss her Foreign Affairs essay "[The China trap: U.S. foreign policy and the perilous logic of zero-sum competition](#)" with comments by **Margaret Lewis**, Professor of Law, Seton Hall University School of Law (confirmed) and **Stapleton Roy**, former U.S. Ambassador to China (Invited)

Professor Chen Weiss served as a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow on the Policy Planning Staff at the U.S. Department of State from August 2021 to July 2022. She gave [a podcast](#) to the Center for Strategic & International Studies on Navigating U.S.-China Relations and was quoted recently by a [Vox report](#) on "Biden's promise to defend Taiwan says a lot about America's view of China." Separately on September 21, 2022, the Union of Concerned Scientists hosted a [Global Security Talk: Avoiding a Cold War with China](#).

The virtual monthly meeting is by invitation only. If you wish to join, either one time or for future meetings, please contact one of the co-organizers of APA Justice - Steven Pei, Vincent Wang, and Jeremy Wu - or send a message to contact@apajustice.org. Read past monthly meeting summaries here: <https://bit.ly/3kxkqxP>.

National Academy of Public Administration Announces 2022 Class of Academy Fellows



National Academy of Public Administration Announces 2022 Class of Academy Fellows

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[Download Press Release](#)



On September 21, 2022, the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) [announced](#) that 35 leaders in the field of public administration have been selected for the 2022 Class of Academy Fellows.

Dr. **Jeremy S. Wu**, Founder and Co-organizer of the APA Justice Task Force, was named one of the new Fellows.

"Our distinguished Academy Fellows are nationally recognized and respected for their expertise in the field of public administration and the members of the Fellows Class of 2022 are no

exception,” said **Terry Gerton**, President and CEO of the Academy. “We proudly welcome this outstanding new class of Fellows that will help advance the Academy vision - a just, fair, and inclusive government that strengthens communities and protects democracy.”

"I am deeply honored and humbled to join the 2022 class of NAPA Fellows," Wu said, adding "as a nation of mostly immigrants, we are in constant pursuit of a more perfect government and democracy. Asian Pacific Americans are part of the solutions to today's challenges. I learned and benefitted from the purpose, mission, and advocacy of the Asian American Government Executive Network (AAGEN) from the day it was officially launched. I am committed to join the Academy to advocate and act on its vision."

Induction of the new Fellows will occur during the annual Academy Fall Meeting, which will take place virtually and in-person November 2-4 at three host sites (Academy headquarters in Washington, D.C., Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA, and University of Connecticut in Hartford, CT), with a focus on “Strengthening Social and Economic Development Through Meaningful Work.”

Selection of the Academy’s new Fellows follows a rigorous review of the individual’s contributions to the field of public administration and policy. A Fellows Nominating Committee, selected by the Academy’s Board Chair, makes its recommendations to the full Fellowship, which then votes on those individuals nominated to be a Fellow. The Committee was co-chaired by Academy Fellows **Norton Bonaparte** and **Kendra Stewart**.

The 2022 class joins more than 950 Academy Fellows – including former cabinet officers, members of Congress, governors, mayors and state legislators, as well as prominent scholars, business executives, nonprofit leaders, and public administrators.

Chartered by Congress to provide non-partisan expert advice, the Academy is an independent, non-profit, and non-partisan organization established in 1967 to assist government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent organizations. Learn more about NAPA at www.napawash.org.

Dr. Arati Prabhakar Confirmed to be Director of OSTP



Dr. **Arati Prabhakar** will be the first woman, immigrant, and person of color confirmed to lead the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) following Senate approval on September 22, 2022. The Senate voted 56-40 to confirm the nomination of Dr. Prabhakar, an engineer and former director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. We congratulate Dr. Prabhakar for her historic confirmation and look forward to her leadership in this cabinet-level appointment.

Professor Zhengdong Cheng Reached Plea Agreement on His "China Initiative" Case



According to [AP report](#) on September 23, 2022, former Texas A&M University Professor **Zhengdong Cheng** pleaded guilty to charges related to hiding his ties to a university created by the Chinese government while accepting federal grant money. He pleaded guilty to two counts — violation of NASA regulations and falsifying official documents.

Cheng had originally been charged with wire fraud, conspiracy and false statements when he was arrested in August 2020. But he pleaded guilty to the new charges as part of an agreement with federal prosecutors. U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen sentenced Cheng to the time he had already served during his pretrial incarceration — about 13 months — longer than Dr. **Wen Ho Lee** did more than two decades ago. He was infected by COVID-19 during the incarceration, prompting the Human Rights Committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicines and the Committee of Concerned Scientists to send letters to the court in support of the motion to revoke the detention order.

Cheng also agreed to pay restitution of \$86,876 and pay a fine of \$20,000. Cheng was fired from Texas A&M shortly after his arrest.

Read more about the *AP* report: <https://bit.ly/3SyP635>

According to [Science](#) on September 22, 2022, despite his conviction, Professor Cheng's plea represents the latest case to crumble under the Department of Justice's (DOJ's) China Initiative, a controversial law enforcement campaign that has prosecuted two dozen U.S. academic scientists, predominantly of Chinese ancestry. Many were initially charged with trying to defraud the government, often accompanied by statements from DOJ officials that implied they had shared research results that would benefit China and threaten U.S. national security. Some scientists pleaded guilty and went to prison. But in most cases the government either abandoned the most serious charges, failed to convince a jury the defendants were guilty, or had convictions later overturned by the federal judge.

In Cheng's case, the government initially charged him with nine counts of defrauding the government as well as making false statements. But at the hearing before the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, in Houston, U.S. Attorney Jennifer Lowery announced the government had agreed to accept Cheng's plea on the two counts of making false statements. The two sides also agreed on a sentence of time served.

Read more about the Science report: <https://bit.ly/3yfCuGr>

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